

What is claimed is:

1. A Raman optical amplifier that amplifies multi-wavelength light, comprising:
 - 5 an optical amplification medium into which the multi-wavelength light is inputted;
 - a pumping light source supplying pumping light to said optical amplification medium;
 - 10 an auxiliary light source generating auxiliary light with a wavelength shorter than a center wavelength of the multi-wavelength light;
 - an optical device guiding the auxiliary light to said optical amplification medium in the same direction as that of the multi-wavelength light; and
 - 15 an auxiliary light controller controlling the optical power of the auxiliary light based on the input power of the multi-wavelength light.
2. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,
 - 20 wherein the wavelength of the auxiliary light is the same as that of the pumping light.
3. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,
 - 25 wherein

the pumping light is guided to said optical amplification medium in the opposite direction as that of the multi-wavelength light.

- 5 4. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,
wherein

10 said auxiliary light controller changes the optical power of the auxiliary light with a prescribed response time based on the change in input power of the multi-wavelength light.

5. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,
wherein

15 when the input power of the multi-wavelength light changes, said auxiliary light controller changes the optical power of the auxiliary light based on the change of the multi-wavelength light in such a way as to suppress the fluctuations in output power of the multi-wavelength light outputted from said optical
20 amplification medium.

6. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,
wherein

25 if the input power of the multi-wavelength light changes from a first input level to a second input level,

said auxiliary light controller changes the optical power of the auxiliary light from a first steady state corresponding to the first input level to a second steady state corresponding to the second input level with a
5 response time determined by the propagation time of the multi-wavelength light or the pumping light in said optical amplification medium.

7. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 6,
10 wherein

the response time is proportional to the propagation time of the multi-wavelength light or the pumping light in said optical amplification medium.

15 8. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,
wherein

if the input power of the multi-wavelength light changes from a first input level to a second input level, said auxiliary light controller changes the optical power of the auxiliary light from a first steady state corresponding to the first input level to a second steady state corresponding to the second input level with a
20 response time determined by the length of said optical amplification medium.

9. The Raman optical amplifier according claim 4,
wherein

the change in input power of the multi-wavelength
light is due to the change in the number of wavelengths
5 of the multi-wavelength light.

10. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,
wherein

if the input power of the multi-wavelength light
10 changes, said auxiliary light controller changes the
optical power of the auxiliary light taking an influence
by stimulated Raman scattering between a plurality of
segments of signal light included in the
multi-wavelength light into consideration.

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11. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,
wherein

said auxiliary light controller further
comprises:

20 a storage unit storing pattern information
indicating the changing pattern of the optical power
of the auxiliary light using information indicating the
change in input power of the multi-wavelength light as
a retrieval key; and

25 a drive control unit extracting

corresponding pattern information from said storage unit based on the detected change in input power of the multi-wavelength light, and driving said auxiliary light source based on the pattern information.

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12. A Raman optical amplifier that amplifies multi-wavelength light, comprising:

an optical amplification medium into which the multi-wavelength light is inputted;

10 a pumping light source supplying pumping light to said optical amplification medium;

an auxiliary light source generating auxiliary light with a wavelength shorter than a center wavelength of the multi-wavelength light;

15 an optical device guiding the auxiliary light to said optical amplification medium in the same direction as that of the multi-wavelength light;

a detector detecting the wavelength arrangement of a plurality of segments of signal light included in
20 the multi-wavelength light; and

an auxiliary light controller controlling the optical power of the auxiliary light based on the change of the wavelength arrangement of the plurality of segments of signal light detected by said detector.

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13. A Raman optical amplifier that amplifies the multi-wavelength light in an optical transmission system in which state information indicating the state of signal light in the multi-wavelength light is 5 informed to an amplification node on a transmission line, comprising:

an optical amplification medium into which the multi-wavelength light is inputted;

10 said optical amplification medium;

an auxiliary light source generating auxiliary light with a wavelength shorter than a center wavelength of the multi-wavelength light;

15 said optical amplification medium in the same direction as that of the multi-wavelength light; and

an auxiliary light controller controlling the optical power of the auxiliary light based on the state information.

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14. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1, wherein

the relative intensity noise of the auxiliary light is set to an amount such that the noise 25 characteristic of the multi-wavelength light outputted

from said optical amplification medium may not be affected.

15. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 14,

5 wherein

the relative intensity noise of the auxiliary light is -130dB/Hz or less.

16. The Raman optical amplifier according to claim 1,

10 further comprising

de-polarization means for de-polarizing the auxiliary light.

17. A Raman optical amplifier that amplifies

15 multi-wavelength light, comprising:

an optical amplification medium into which the multi-wavelength light is inputted;

a forward pumping light source supplying forward pumping light to said optical amplification medium;

20 a backward pumping light source supplying backward pumping light to said optical amplification medium; and

25 a controller controlling the optical power of the forward pumping light based on the input power of the multi-wavelength light.